

I claim:

1        1.    A method for the transmission of image data from a sender  
2    to a recipient, comprising the steps of  
3        inserting at the location of the sender into a data  
4    transmission including an image format portion data identifying the  
5    address of the intended recipient of the image-format portion of  
6    the transmission and message tracking data;  
7        transmitting the data transmission over a transmission  
8    system from the sender's location to an intermediate point of  
9    presence facility; and  
10       receiving the data transmission by the point of presence  
11    facility and re-transmitting the data comprising the image portion  
12    to the identified address of the recipient.

1        2.    The method of claim 1 further including the step of  
2    inserting into the data transmission at the location of the sender  
3    message tracking data.

1        3.    The method of claim 2 further including the step of  
2    processing the message tracking data by the point of presence  
3    facility.

1        4.    The method of claim 3 including the further step of  
2    stripping the message tracking data from the data transmission at  
3    the point of presence facility before retransmission.

1        5.    The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:  
2        inserting at the location of the sender into the data  
3        transmission data identifying an address of the sender; and  
4        sending a confirmation message to the sender's address  
5        by the point of presence facility after re-transmitting the data  
6        comprising the image portion to the recipient's identified address.

1        6.    The method of claim 1, wherein the address of the  
2        recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the  
3        data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail  
4        attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

1        7.    The method of claim 4, wherein the address of the  
2        recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the  
3        data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail  
4        attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

1        8.    The method of claim 6, wherein the address of the sender  
2        is an e-mail address and the step of sending a confirmation message  
3        includes forwarding an e-mail message to the sender's e-mail  
4        address.

1        9.    The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:  
2        generating a confirmation message by the point of presence  
3        facility after re-transmitting the data comprising the image

4 portion to the recipient's identified address; and  
5 allowing the sender access to the confirmation message.

1 10. A method for the transmission of image data from a sender  
2 to a recipient, comprising the steps of  
3 inserting at the location of the sender into a data  
4 transmission including a portion intended to be received by the  
5 recipient data identifying the address of the intended recipient  
6 of the portion and message tracking data;  
7 transmitting the data transmission from the sender's  
8 location to an intermediate point of presence facility; and  
9 receiving the data transmission by the point of presence  
10 facility, converting the portion to a facsimile-format image, and  
11 re-transmitting the intended portion to the identified address of  
12 the recipient.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the identified  
2 address of the recipient is a telephone number associated with a  
3 facsimile reception apparatus and said re-transmission includes a  
4 portion over a telephone line linked to the facsimile reception  
5 apparatus.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the transmission from  
2 the sender to the point of presence facility is in the form of an  
3 e-mail transmission.

1           13. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of  
2 transmitting the data transmission over a telephone system from the  
3 sender's location to an intermediate point of presence facility  
4 include converting the image data to facsimile format and  
5 transmitting the image data in the facsimile format.